



# NISD Advocacy Committee Kickoff

March 30, 2021



## **NISD Advocacy Committee:** Our Purpose

To inform and engage legislators and to advocate for Northwest ISD's Legislative Priorities on behalf of students, staff, and the NISD community.



## **NISD Advocacy Committee:** **Our Charge**

- Review NISD Advocacy Alerts to stay informed.
- Communicate (emails, phone calls, letters) with legislators as part of the NISD Advocacy campaign schedule.
- Communicate with legislators regarding urgent NISD Advocacy Alerts as able and interested.

# 87<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- **January 12, 2021**  
Regular Session Convened
  - Meetings and Bill Drafting
- **March 12, 2021**  
60-day Bill Filing Deadline
  - Bills Move through Legislative Process
- **May 31, 2021**  
Last Day of Regular Session



# 2021 Legislative Priorities

# **NORTHWEST ISD**

## **2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**



**Fast Growth**



**School  
Finance**




**Assessment &  
Accountability**



**North Texas  
Transportation**

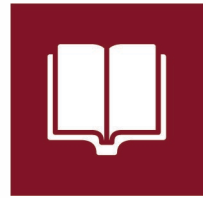


**School Safety  
& Security**



# School Finance

Create an adequate and equitable system with local discretion that accommodates fast growth and ensures the community's needs are met.



# Assessment & Accountability

Establish a system that looks beyond the STAAR exam and measures what the community prioritizes, and oppose A-F ratings.





# North Texas Transportation

Support efforts and funding to address the expansion and improvement of transportation infrastructure in response to the rapid growth of the North Texas area.



# School Safety & Security

Support funding student and school safety initiatives and flexibility in how funds are used to meet the needs of the community.

# Targeted Messages



State Budget Loss and Fast Growth



Elections and Ballot Requirements



Reading Academies

# NISD BUDGET CHALLENGE

**1,100** more students  
**+ \$10-15** million less

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a budget that  
doesn't add up

# State Budget Loss and Fast Growth

- **Reverse Decrease in Golden Penny Yield**
  - NISD lost \$4.5 million from decrease in four tax pennies under House Bill 3.
  - Funding rate known as “Golden Penny Yield” should be returned to previous value of \$135.92 per penny per WADA. (New decreased rate is \$98.56.)
- **Return to Prior-Year Values**
  - NISD receiving less state funding due change to Current-Year Values under House Bill 3.
  - Property values typically rise each year – especially in fast-growth districts.
  - School district funding should return to prior-year values to provide predictability, consistency, and support for fast-growth districts.

# Elections & Ballot Requirements

- **Ballot Requirements**

- Legally required statement “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE” caused uncertainty and distrust among voters.
- The required ballot language should be modified so that it does not mislead voters.
- “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE” should not be required for districts whose tax rate is not increasing and ballot language should instead provide the factual tax impact to better inform voters.

# Elections & Ballot Requirements

- **Ballot Requirements**

- Certain bond projects are required to be listed in separate propositions on the ballot.
- Voters could unknowingly approve a school project without the school practice areas and facilities they expect in their new school.
- The requirement for separate propositions for certain projects should be revised so that a comprehensive school building cannot be divided on the ballot and unintentionally partially funded by voters.

# Reading Academies

- Required Reading Academies were instituted under House Bill 3.
- NISD has invested significant training and funding to design a strong reading program for PK-3 students.
- Districts should have local control over professional development and should be allowed to continue successful practices.
- Districts should be allowed to develop and deliver training in a manner that supports local district goals.



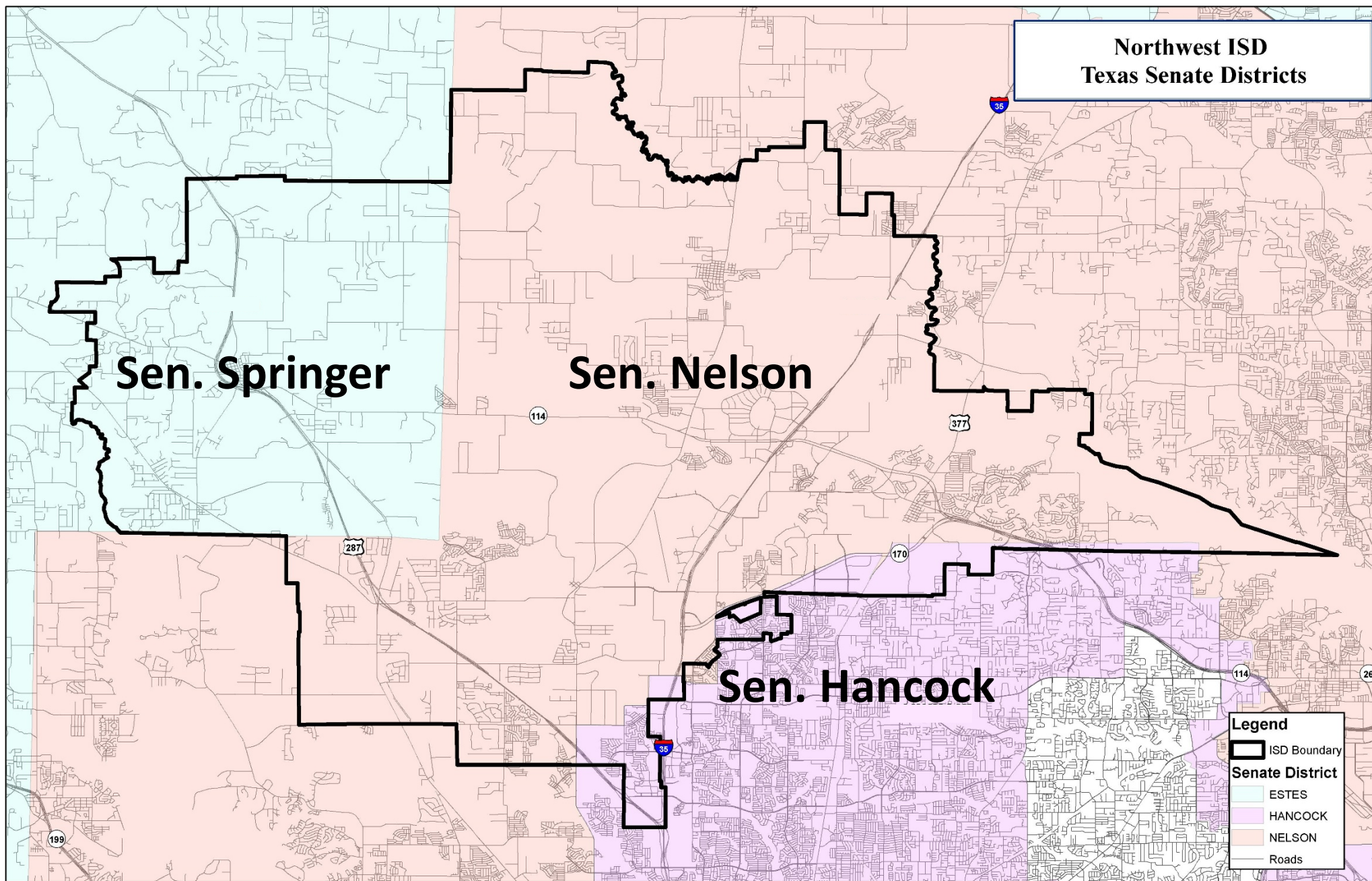
# NISD STATE LEGISLATORS

## Texas Senate

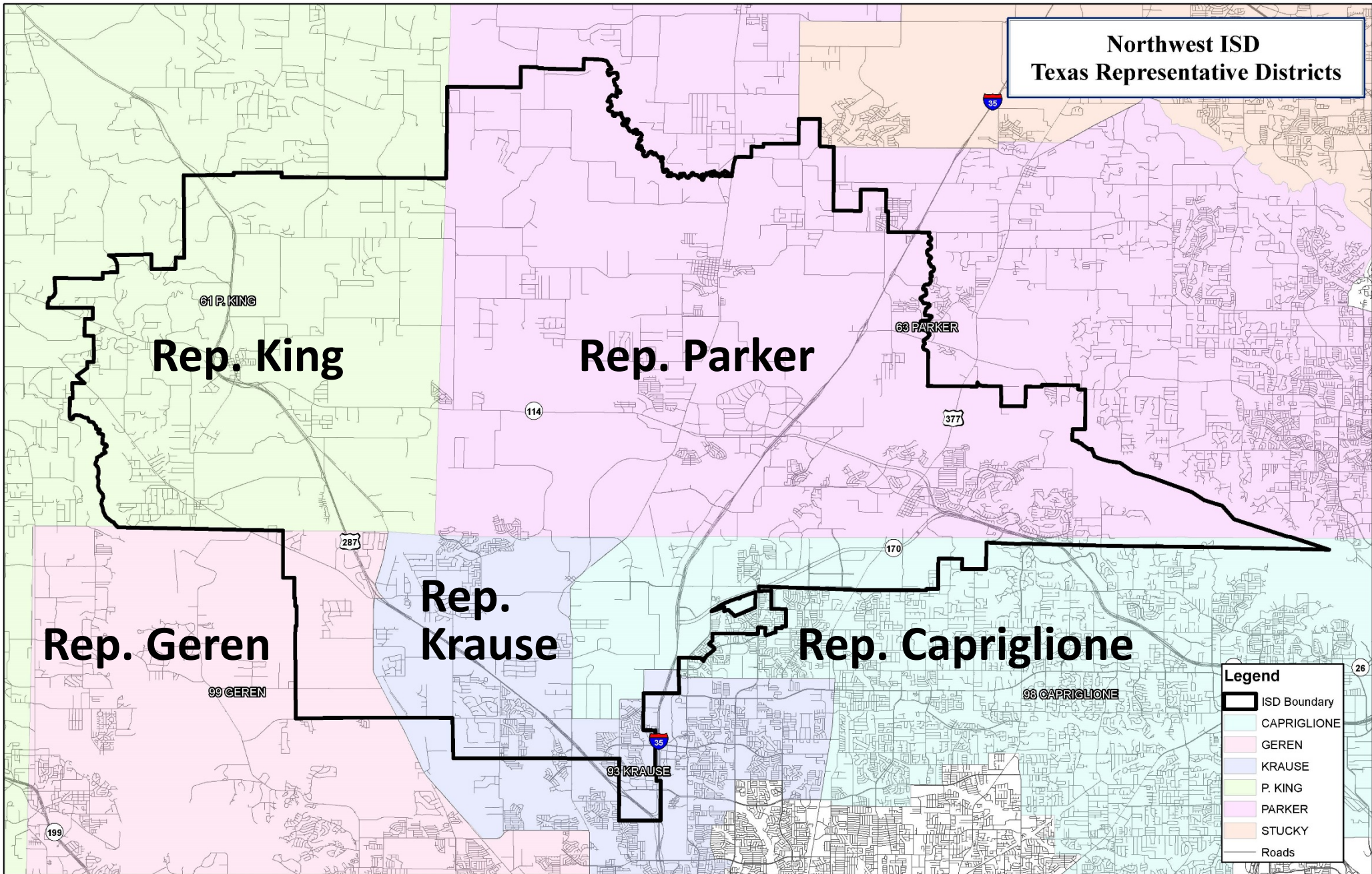
- Kelly Hancock District 9
- Jane Nelson District 12
- Drew Springer  
(Pat Fallon) District 30

## Texas House of Representatives

- Giovanni Capriglione  
District 98
- Charlie Geren District 99
- Phil King District 61
- Matt Krause District 93
- Tan Parker District 63







# NISD Advocacy Campaign Schedule


- Week of March 29 – Review NISD Legislative Priorities
- Week of April 5 – Everyone send a letter of support and NISD Legislative Priorities
- Week of April 5 – School Finance & House Bill 3 Impact
- Week of April 12 – Elections and Ballot Requirements
- Week of April 19 – Reading Academies

# NISD Advocacy Campaign Interest

- Look for an NISD Advocacy Alert email.
- Complete Google Form to indicate which area(s) you're interested in.
  - School Finance and House Bill 3 Funding Loss
  - Elections and Ballot Requirements
  - Reading Academies
- Depending on your interest, we will email you a sample letter and contact information for the designated week.

# ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Legislative updates and progress on specific bills that relate to NISD's 2021 Legislative Priorities will be emailed through NISD Advocacy Alert email.
- You are encouraged to send a personal message regarding the topics that interest you.

**NISD ADVOCACY ALERT**  
*A Legislative Update for the Northwest ISD Advocacy Committee*

March 26, 2021





**NISD Advocacy Committee Kickoff Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 30  
4:15 p.m.

Zoom Link:  
<https://nisdtx.zoom.us/j/87668496218?pwd=V2ZHVF13VlVFc2RCRHpwVCT2dEhoUT09>

Thank you so much for your interest in following the 87th Legislative Session and engaging with legislators on behalf of our Northwest ISD students and staff. Please join Dr. Warren for a Zoom meeting to learn more about the NISD Advocacy Committee, our anticipated efforts, and tips on interacting with your legislators. For your convenience, a calendar appointment will be emailed to you as well, and the meeting will be recorded and shared afterward in case you are unable to attend Tuesday's live Zoom meeting.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Angela Scott, Public Affairs Coordinator, at [ascott@nisdtx.org](mailto:ascott@nisdtx.org) or 817-698-1088.

**Northwest Independent School District**  
Phone: 817-215-0000 • Fax: 817-215-0170  
[www.nisdtx.org](http://www.nisdtx.org)



# Communicating with Legislators

- **Email and phone calls are good.**
  - Does not have to be a mailed, formal letter or lengthy.
  - Have a clear summary in email subject line (indicate support/oppose).
- **Customize your message.**
  - While form letters and mass mailings show legislators interest in certain issues, it counts as one letter as they track issues/bills.
  - Share a personal story or example of how the issue impacts you or students. Stories are easily remembered and shared.



# Communicating with Legislators

- **Always be professional and polite.**
  - Feel free to indicate support or opposition, but do so respectfully.
  - Include appropriate references (ex. Senator Springer, Representative Krause – not Mr. or Mrs.).
  - Always show appreciation for their leadership and time.
- **Identify your role(s) in NISD.**
  - NISD Advocacy Committee Member, Parent, Staff Member, Community Member, Resident.
  - Indicate if you live in the legislator's district. Legislators are particularly concerned about their constituents' interests. (We've been told Senator Nelson personally reads every letter that states it's from District 12.)



# GUIDANCE FOR NISD STAFF

- Always put your students (your work) first.
- Communicate with legislators during your free time (lunch breaks and outside of duty hours).
- If it is an urgent matter and you have received an NISD Advocacy Alert email, feel free to communicate during the day when you have free time.
  - Employees can send messages to legislators during work hours if authorized by district administration to speak on behalf of the district.

# GUIDANCE FOR NISD STAFF

- District email account – if speaking on behalf of the district *and* representative of the NISD's Legislative Priorities.
- Personal email account – if speaking on behalf of yourself (or if you think it would have a greater impact on the legislator).

# Resources

Visit [www.nisdtx.org/legislative](http://www.nisdtx.org/legislative) for more information.

- Additional information.
- Legislator's contact information.
- Links to other sites and associations.



# BILLS OF INTEREST

## **HB 1525 – Huberty - HB 3 Clean-up Bill**

- Relating to the public school finance system.
- A Committee Substitute is expected that could include:
  - Fast Growth Allotment Provision
  - Extending the timeline for completion of the Reading Academies for two years
  - Provision that adds an associate degree to the CCMR bonus
- Similar bills HB 3837 and SB 1536.
- Considered for public hearing and left pending in committee 3.23.21.

# BILLS OF INTEREST

## HB 725 – Patterson – Prekindergarten Eligibility for Foster Students

- Adds children who were in foster care in another state to be eligible for prekindergarten in Texas.
- Voted out of Committee 3.25.21.

# BILLS OF INTEREST

## HB 1603 – Huberty – Individual Graduation Committees

- Removes the expiration date from the law providing for individual graduation committees so that they can continue to be an option for students in perpetuity.
- Voted out of Committee 3.25.21.

# BILLS OF INTEREST

## **HB 749 – Middleton – Community Censorship/Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying**

- Prohibits political subdivisions from using public funds to hire an individual to lobby or to pay a state association that contracts with someone to lobby.
- Prevents statewide associations from employing advocates (like TASA, TASB, Texas School Coalition, etc.)
- Left pending in Committee 3.26.21.

# House Appropriations Committee

- Federal stimulus education dollars to provide \$17.9 billion to Texas.
- Language was inserted to make sure that the federal stimulus education dollars stayed.
  - Last spring, state leaders used federal COVID funds to fill other budget holes (supplanted funding).
- March 31 - the full Appropriations committee will discuss this language.



